Marshall, Paul

From: Tipton, Lantz

Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2016 12:10 PM

To: Huffman, Diane; Draper, Seth; Marshall, Paul; Miller, Patricia G.; Jay, Michael; Terriquez, Joe; Hayes,

Scott; Buchholz, Ken; Williams, Spencer; Weekley, Erin; Oesterreich, Justin; Bahney, Kimberly; Brewer,

Laura; Hensley, Dave; Rosado-Chaparro, Wilfredo; Reitz, Patricia; Stotts, Krystal

Subject: Big Ox Energy - OSHA contact

All,

I spoke with Phil Pissale, OSHA Health Compliance Officer who is performing the ongoing investigation of injured workers at the Big Ox Energy facility. His number is 402-553-0171 (office) or 402-672-8420 (cell), he said that if there are any additional questions from any other programs to feel free to give him a call.

I asked about worker injuries and where they had occurred. He said that first injury was inside a storage tank, one was after a worker opened a hatch releasing H2S into the air, and the last was from a worker opening a valve releasing H2S into the air inside the building.

I asked if the releases have been contained by the Facility's building or have they been released to the atmosphere and he replied that H2S has been released to the atmosphere from activities at the plant. He said that 'Centrifuges have been vented through the roof'.

He said that the plant has been in some form of operation since October and has not fully shut down. He thought that they were capturing methane at approximately 50% capacity and that natural gas has been entered into the natural gas pipeline connection at the plant.

He explained that problems were caused by breakdowns of the GEM (Gas Emulsion Machine) and clogging of pumps.

He said that he has been there multiple times and would be going there this week again. I asked if we could get a copy of the report and he explained that a press release and citations may be issued and that we can request a copy of his report.

Phil said that if there were any additional questions to please let him know and that if he observed any environmental harm situations that he would let us know also.

If there are any questions for me, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Lantz Tipton WENF/WWPD U.S. EPA Region 7 11201 Renner Blvd. Lenexa, KS 66219 913-551-7892 tipton.lantz@epa.gov